

Message Text

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TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF TDB: OPENING

STATEMENTS BY G-77 AND UNCTAD SYG

1. SUMMARY: OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE G-77 SPOKESMAN AND UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL COREA TO 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF TDB, APRIL 25, BOTH DESCRIBED THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS) FOR THE 1970'S AS A FAILURE, AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS CALLED FOR IN THE NIEO. G-77 STATEMENT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MOVE FORWARD IN IMPLEMENTING "INTERNATIONALLY AGREED COMMITMENTS" OF UNCTAD IV AND STATED THAT G-77 ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS AT CIEC. COREA PROPOSED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE 1980'S BE MORE ACTION-ORIENTED AND INVOLVE COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE AND AN EMPHASIS ON MEETING BASIC NEED FOR THE LDCS. END SUMMARY.

2. G-77 SPOKESMAN (AMBASSADOR EL-SHAFEI OF EGYPT) OPENED DEBATE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL MONDAY AFTERNOON BY CLAIMING THAT THE IDS HAS FAILED BECAUSE OF LACK OF POLITICAL WILL
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OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONALLY-AGREED COMMITMENTS. DESCRIBING UNCTAD IV AS THE "FIRST PRACTICAL TEXT" OF THE ERA OF COOPERATION LAUNCHED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA, EL-SHAFEI SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF RESULTS OF NAIROBI ARE NOW GETTING BOGGED DOWN ON ALMOST EVERY FRONT. STATING THAT WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AT THIS TDB TO "GIVE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMIC COOPERATION A PUSH FROM ITS PRESENT DOLDRUMS", HE WARNED THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD RISK CONFRONTATION. HE ALSO STATED THAT LDCS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED AND DISAPPOINTED BY "AN OVER-EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL DETAILS WHICH HAS FURTHER PROVED TO BE A PRETEXT FOR AVOIDING ISSUES AND HAS FURTHER SERVED TO DIFFUSE THE ENERGIES AND LIMITED RESOURCES OF SMALL DELEGATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES".

3. REITERATING THE G-77'S "PROFOUND DISSATISFACTION WITH THE FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND", EL-SHAFEI SAID THE G-77 TRUSTS THAT THE FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE OF THAT CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE REPEATED AND THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL COME TO THE RESUMED NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE WITH THE REQUIRED POLITICAL MANDATE TO ENSURE SUCCESS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DCS NEED TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDES IN THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED WITHIN THE TIME FRAME ESTABLISHED BY NAIROBI; THAT WE NEED TO "BREAK THE DEADLOCK" IN THE MTN; AND THAT THE G-77 LOOKS TO THE TDB MINISTERIAL SESSION FOR DECISIVE OVERALL SOLUTIONS TO THE DEBT PROBLEMS OF THE LDCS. HE CLOSED BY EMPHASIZING THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE G-77 ATTACHES TO CIEC TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE RESULTS, WHICH HE NOTED WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. IN LENGTHY STATEMENT AT FIRST PLENARY, MONDAY MORNING, UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL COREA COMMENTED ON THE "FAILURE" OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS CALLED FOR IN THE NIEO. HE CITED AS HOPEFUL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD, EXPANSION OF CERTAIN IMF AND IBRD FACILITIES, THE BEGINNING OF OPEC COUNTRIES' PARTICIPATION IN AID PROGRAMS, AND ADVANCES IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CONCRETE ACTION IS NEEDED IN THE FOLLOWING FIVE AREAS IN WHICH UNCTAD SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD: COMMODITIES, EXTERNAL DEBT OF LDCS, TRANSFER OF REAL RESOURCES, THE MTN (WHICH COREA SAID WAS NOT MAKING PROGRESS), AND MONETARY REFORM.

5. COREA SAID HE FELT THIS TDB SHOULD BEGIN TO FORMULATE THOUGHTS FOR THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE, "TO SOW A FEW SEEDS WHICH WE HOPE WILL BEAR FRUIT IN THE MONTHS TO COME". HE SUGGESTED THAT A NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE 1980S SHOULD BE MORE ACTION ORIENTED THAN IN THE PAST AND SHOULD BE BASED ON THREE PILLARS: (1) NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES OF LDCS, WHICH COREA SUGGESTED COULD BE IMPROVED THROUGH SUCH APPROACHES AS THE BASIC NEEDS STRATEGY, OR FINDING WAYS TO MEET SOCIAL

NEEDS AND IMPROVE INCOME DISTRIBUTION AS AN LDC ACHIEVES ECONOMIC GROWTH; (2) THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK, WHICH SHOULD HELP LDCS SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND EMPHASIZE STRUCTURAL CHANGES (AS REFLECTED IN NIEO), RATHER THAN RESOURCE TRANSFERS (3) COOPERATION AMONG LDCS OR COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE, A CONCEPT WHICH COREA SAID UNCTAD COULD HELP DEFINE AND ELABORATE, STARTING IN ITS COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG LDCS WHICH MEETS NEXT WEEK. SORENSON

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